



## Enrollment Report

To: Joel D. Boyd, Superintendent of Schools  
From: Latifah Phillips, Chief Equity and Engagement Officer  
Date: October 1, 2021  
Re: Enrollment Report

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This memo is submitted in reference to the October 1 enrollment report.

For state reporting - which is the process that determines the foundational funding for Lowell Public Schools, the district's Office of Performance Management reports only student enrollment numbers for the district's 28 schools. For the state reporting October snapshot, as of today, the district has a total of 14,173 students enrolled in one of our 28 schools. This number is currently up 150 students from last year's 2020 October snapshot; however, the number will not be finalized until the October verification process is completed on October 28.

The district's Office of Performance Management is responsible for reporting and verifying student enrollment information to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) three times per year, and the October data collection window is the most important data collection window as this determines the foundational funding for the district. The Office of Performance Management will take a snapshot of today's school enrollment (October 1) and work over the next 28 days to verify and validate the final number of students who are currently attending one of our 28 Lowell Public Schools.

Historically in Lowell Public Schools, students continue to enroll throughout the year. In addition to the normal anticipated flow of new students to the district throughout the year, the district is also anticipating an influx of students arriving after October 1 who are Afghan evacuees. Any students who apply with the Lowell Public Schools after today will not be counted for foundational funding for next year's budget. However, they will be accounted for in the next two school enrollment snapshots that are reported to DESE at later points in the school year.

You will notice that the October enrollment report includes the enrollment of the district's 28 schools in addition to other categories of enrollment that the district is responsible for monitoring, placing and/or supporting. Examples of these additional categories include home schooled students, out of district student placements, community pre-K student program placements, and students referred for special

education program evaluation as well as students in the Family Resource Center category awaiting student assignment. When combining all of these categories together, the total enrollment on the October enrollment report adds up to 14,934.

As of today, the total number of students in the FRC category is 79. Fourteen (14) students are awaiting placement and 65 remain on the waitlist for pre-K placement in a district program that is currently full.

As mentioned, we are anticipating a post-October 1 increase in student enrollment due to a resettlement of Afghan evacuees to Massachusetts, approximately 200 of whom are expected to be resettled in the greater Lowell area and Massachusetts. We are awaiting information relating to how many of these evacuees may be school-aged children who will be resettled in Lowell. The International Institute of New England anticipates receiving assurances of Afghan evacuees any day now. Upon receiving an assurance - which is a notice from the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) that an evacuee has been approved for resettlement - evacuees will begin arriving one week to ten days later. The resettlement window is anticipated to be approximately 5 months and of the evacuees with families, the average family is estimated to be 4 people per family. We have a cross-departmental team taking steps to proactively plan for the incoming students and families and we will continue to update as new information becomes available.